

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY East Germany

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SUBJECT Nonferrous Metal Production
and Imports in 1954

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1. The plan to cover the nonferrous metal requirements of East Germany in 1954 has been changed three times since it was first formulated in the early autumn of 1953. These changes have been caused by three main factors:
 - a. the unwillingness of the Russians to meet all the demands made on them for the supply of ores and block metals,
 - b. a 50% cut in the sum allocated for imports, and
 - c. the realization that the reserve stocks of certain metals were excessive.
2. These changes have in some cases led to an increase in the planned production at home with a corresponding reduction in imports. For example, tin imports were cut from 1160 tons to 960 tons and finally to 240 tons. Brass and bronze imports have been cut out altogether, and the reduction in imports of zinc has resulted in the start of home production. In other cases, requirements have been met by drawing on the National Reserve. In the cases of foundry aluminum and magnesium, the Russians agreed to increase their original figures. The nickel import figure of 1,800 tons is an 80% increase over 1953.
3. The realization of the plan up to the end of the first quarter was far from satisfactory, and supplies of eight of the more important metals were all short, either as the result of undelivered imports (aluminum, nickel and chromium), inadequate home supplies (bronze, brass and white metal), or both (tin and magnesium).
4. Copper imports from the USSR were quantitatively up to schedule, but there were complications because of the form in which it arrived. Instead of the sheets, bars, and rods promised, Russian deliveries have been either in the form of covered wire, which has first to be treated to remove the coverings and then melted down before it can be used (which not only involves extra labor but also results in a 7 to 10% loss of material), or as damaged sheet metal which is to

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a large extent unusable in the state in which it is delivered. Protests through the appropriate office at the Ministry for Foreign Trade to the exporting agency in Moscow have been without avail.

5. Actual production of pure zinc in East Germany is not expected before the autumn when the first results are scheduled from the VEB Feinzinkwerk in Freiburg, Saxony. A total of 40 tons is planned for 1954.
6. An unusual situation has arisen in the case of antimony stocks of which a total of 1,322 tons including that held in the National Reserve are so far beyond requirements that it has been decided to re-export 600 tons during 1954.
7. Attached as Annex A is the complete analysis of planned production and imports of nonferrous metals for 1954, together with the figures showing realization up to 31 March 1954.

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Annex A

Planned production and imports of nonferrous metals in East Germany in 1954 and realization to 31 March 1954 (in metric tons).

Metal	1954 Plan			Actual, January through March 1954		
	East German Production (1)	Imports	Total	East German Production	Imports	Total
Copper	30,888	14,000	44,888	7,265	4,427	11,682
Lead	19,885 (1)	17,345	37,230	3,989	4,631	8,620
Aluminum (pure foundry)	24,576	12,000	36,576	5,969	nil	5,969
Aluminum (alloy)	14,839	nil	14,839	3,537	nil	3,537
Bronze	3,549 (3)	nil	3,549	220	17	237
Tin (pure)	440	140	580	42	59	101
Tin (crude)	636	100	736	119	nil	119
Brass	2,142	nil	2,142	393	nil	393
Zinc (pure)	1,156 (4)	11,700	12,856	14	5,117	5,131
Zinc (from scrap)	3,966	nil	3,966	759	nil	759
White metal (80%)	500	nil	500	85	nil	85
White metal (10%)	1,421	nil	1,421	233	nil	233
Nickel	28	1,800	1,828	21	186	207
Magnesium	2,137	1,500	3,637	150	15	165
Antimony	904 (5)	nil	904	nil	nil	nil
Solder	902	150	1,052	244	nil	244
Cadmium	nil	65	65	nil	10	10
Chromium	nil	15	15	nil	nil	nil
Bismuth	12	5	17	nil	nil	nil
Mercury	nil	220	220	nil	64	64
Cobalt	nil	45	45	nil	9	9
Beryllium (in Kg.)	nil	20	20	nil	nil	nil
Selenium	9	3	12	2	1	3

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Metal	1964 Plan			Actual, January through March 1954		
	East German Production	Imports	Total	East German Production	Imports	Total
Manganese	39	300	69	5	12	17
Arsenic	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil (6)
Silicon	nil	50	50	nil	13	13

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